

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: UNCTAD, PORG

SUBJ: UNCTAD TDB: ISRAELI STATEMENT AT CLOSING PLENARY

REF: GENEVA 8458

1. SUMMARY: AS REPORTED PARA 2(C) OF REFTEL, ISRAELI PERMANENT MISSION MINISTER HARAN, IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE BREACH OF AN AGREEMENT WITH U.S. DELEGATION, ENGAGED IN ACRIMONIOUS DENUNCIATION OF THE PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (MEXICO CONFERENCE) WHICH CONTAINS PRO-PLO, ANTI-ISRAEL STATEMENTS. U.S. DELEGATION HAD ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN LANGUAGE IN TDB RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD HAVE AVOIDED THE NECESSITY FOR SUCH A STATEMENT BY ISRAEL, AND FAILING AGREEMENT OF G-77 TO SUCH LANGUAGE, BELIEVED IT HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ISRAELIS TO REFRAIN FROM ENGAGING IN AN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE IF GROUP B ENTERED A STATEMENT THAT THE BOARD'S ACTION IN NOTING THE MEXICO REPORT DID NOT CONSTITUTE AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENDORSEMENT OF ITS CONTENTS. THIS APPARENTLY WAS NOT

CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE ISRAELI DELEGATE WHO FELT IT STILL NECESSARY TO MAKE A PROTEST OF THE PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE OF THE REPORT. WHETHER OR NOT THE QUESTION WILL BE REOPENED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REMAINS UNCLEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING COURSE OF 16TH TDB CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE WRITING OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMITTEE, THE ISRAELI DELEGATE, MINISTER EPHRAIM HARAN, TOLD U.S. DEL. THAT ANY LANGUAGE OF THE TDB IN NOTING THE REPORT OF THE MEXICO CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD REQUIRE HIS DELEGATION TO DENOUNCE THE OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE IN THE PREAMBULAR SECTION OF THE MEXICO REPORT WHICH CONTAINS PRO-PLO AND ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENTS. WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE ISRAELI DELEGATE AND FRIENDLY MEMBERS OF THE G-77, THE U.S. DELEGATION ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN MODIFICATION OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE TDB RESOLUTION NOTING THE "SUBMISSION" OF THE REPORT OF MEXICO, OR SOME SUCH VARIATION, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE TDB WAS NOT NOTING THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT. FRIENDLY G-77 DELEGATES FELT THAT THEY COULD NOT ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SUCH LANGUAGE FOR FEAR THAT IT WOULD REOPEN THE DEBATES AT MEXICO ON THE ANTI-ISRAEL LANGUAGE WHICH THEY FELT WAS RATHER MILD AS A RESULT OF MUCH HAGGLING AT MEXICO.

3. FAILING IN THE EFFORT TO OBTAIN FROM THE G-77 THE LANGUAGE MODIFICATION, THE U.S. DEL ASKED THE ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE IF A STATEMENT BY GROUP B TO THE EFFECT THAT THE BOARD'S ACTION IN NOTING THE REPORT DID NOT CONSTITUTE ANY ENDORSEMENT OF ITS CONTENTS WOULD SUFFICE TO PERMIT THE ISRAELI DELEGATE TO REFRAIN FROM ENGAGING IN AN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE ON THE ISSUE. THE ISRAELI DELEGATE SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT AND LET THE U.S. DEL KNOW LATER. JUST PRIOR TO END OF THE LAST GROUP B MEETING IN THE EARLY HOURS OF SATURDAY MORNING, THE ISRAELI DELEGATE ASKED IF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. HAD OBTAINED GROUP B AGREEMENT TO MAKE THE STATEMENT, TO WHICH THE U.S. REPLIED THAT IT HAD NOT PURSUED THE MATTER FURTHER SINCE THE ISRAELI DELEGATE HAD NOT INDICATED WHETHER OR NOT THIS WOULD HELP. THE ISRAELI DELEGATE REPLIED: "YOU HAVE LET ME DOWN." THEREUPON, THE U.S. DELEGATE OBTAINED GROUP B APPROVAL FOR THE STATEMENT ON THE BASIS THAT IT WOULD AVOID A POLITICAL FIGHT IN THE FINAL HOURS OF THE BOARD.

NEVERTHELESS, THE ISRAELI DELEGATE FELT IT NECESSARY TO ENGAGE IN AN ATTEMPTED DENUNCIATION OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE MEXICO REPORT WITH A CONSEQUENT FLURRY OF DEMANDS TO CUT OFF THE DEBATE BY THE ARAB DELEGATES. THE CHAIR FINALLY RULED THE DEBATE CLOSED AND PERMITTED BOTH THE EGYPTIAN AND THE ISRAELI DELEGATIONS TO ENTER WITH ONE STATEMENT EACH ON A "RIGHT OF REPLY" JUST PRIOR TO THE COSE OF THE 16TH TDB.

4. COMMENT: U.S. DELEGATE ALLEN AND I BOTH MADE IT CLEAR TO MINISTER HARAN THAT THE U.S. FELT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A BREACH OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE NET EFFECT COULD BE THE LOSS OF CREDITABILITY OF THE U.S. WITHIN GROUP B ON FUTURE OCCASIONS WHEN THE GROUP'S SUPPORT WAS NEEDED TO HEAD OFF ANTI-ISRAELI MOVES BY THE G-77. MINISTER HARAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING ON BOTH THE ISRAELI AND U.S. SIDES AND PROMISED TO BE MUCH MORE SPECIFIC IN THE FUTURE. HE ALSO UNDERTOOK TO CLARIFY WHAT HAD HAPPENED WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP B TO AVOID ANY LOSS OF CREDITABILITY BY THE U.S.

5. COMMENT: APART FROM THE PROBLEM OF U.S. CREDITABILITY WITHIN GROUP B, THE ISRAELI ACTION MAY WELL CAUSE THE ISSUE TO COME TO THE FOREFRONT IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHEN IT MEETIS IN FEBRUARY 1977. WHILE THERE IS NO INDICATION AT PRESENT THAT THE ARAB MEMBERS ARE NOW CONTEMPLATING ANY ACTION, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY MAKE SOME MOVE TO BAR ISRAEL FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED.CATTO

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